

IN THE CLAIMS :

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said reagent is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal [or] and transition metal salt of 5-sulfoisophthalic acid.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [10] 9 wherein said reagent is 3-sulfonylbenzoic acid or the sodium or lithium salt thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein, in (A), said ethylene- α , β unsaturated acid is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid [or] and mixtures thereof.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29 wherein said fiber forming adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of an anti-oxidant, stabilizer, colorant, processing aid, catalyst, filler, nucleating agent, anti-microbial, melt viscosity enhancer [or] and mixtures thereof.